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Taken from File
"Souvenirs of G/GS"

24 August 1948

Chief, Plans and Policy Staff

Chief, Global Survey Group

Requests for Inter-Agency Assistance

Reference: Your memo, 20 August 1948

1. The Global Survey Group has never made a direct, formal request to any outside agency for research and analysis. It has sometimes, in oral discussion, suggested the general desirability of certain studies.

2. The work of the G/GS does not lead to the formulation of direct requests on departmental agencies, for the following reasons:

a. The tasks which fall to the G/GS normally require urgent action and do not permit the adoption of an unduly time-consuming procedure.

b. These tasks do not involve research and compilation, but rather appreciation, which, in view of the normal urgency must be made on the basis of research already accomplished and current intelligence.

c. These tasks, especially those undertaken at the request of the NSC Staff, are directed toward specific problems rather than generalized requirements. Experience has shown that the specific pertinence of departmental studies cannot be relied upon without a greater degree of guidance and control than it is feasible for G/GS to exercise outside of ORE.

d. G/GS has found no "opposite number" in the departmental agencies. In this circumstance it is compelled, for reasons to internal comity, to deal with external units corresponding to ORE Branches through the ORE Branches.

e. For the foregoing reasons, the practice of G/GS is to prepare its drafts in collaboration with ORE Branches, relying upon their liaison with their "opposite numbers" and upon subsequent coordination to keep it apprised of departmental views.

3. A special case is the Joint Ad Hoc Committee under G/GS chairmanship. This working arrangement results in close direct collaboration between G/GS and departmental representatives, but not in direct requests upon outside agencies for specific research.

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All texts used as a basis for discussion have been prepared in ORE in consultation with committee members. A single exception is a report in preparation by a military subcommittee and not yet completed.

The projects completed by the Joint Ad Hoc Committee are:

Special Evaluation No. 28 (16 March)
ORE 22-48 (5 April)
ORE 58-48 (30 July)

Political, economic, and scientific appendices to ORE 58-48 are ready for publication but held up awaiting completion of the military appendix referred to above. ORE 22-48 is currently under review by the Committee.

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cc: Chief, S/PP
Chief, G/SI